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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,053	10/20/2003	Henry Rennich	RENNICH-001	9219

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, GARY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/688,053

Applicant(s)

RENNICH, HENRY

Examiner

Gary Jackson

Art Unit

3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/20/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is a response to applicant's application filed on October 20, 2003. Also concerning the telephone conversation on September 30, 2004, the examiner has withdrawn all proposed amendments in favor of a written office action. The examiner regrets any delay this may have caused.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because a perspective view of the bent bridge should be shown for clarity and understanding. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hopkins (US Patent 4,458,681). The patent to Yoon disclose a clamping device having the following limitations:

- a first member 16 having opposed ends and a midsection;
- a second member 1 having opposed ends and a mid section;
- each of the ends having passages 36;
- slot 25.

Concerning claim 11, the penis recitation has no limiting affect in this instance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 4-5, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hopkins in view Yoon (USP 5,620,452). The patent to Hopkins disclose a clamping device having the following limitations:

- a first member 10 having opposed ends and a midsection;
- a second member 12 having opposed ends and a mid section;
- each of the ends having passages 14 and 15

Hopkins fails to clearly teach at least at least two pairs of pins received in the passages. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide Hopkins with at least two pairs of pins as taught by Yoon to have a more secure clamping force.

Alternatively, it would have been obvious to modify Yoon's device with non-integral surfaces as taught by Hopkins so as to receive more tissue there between. Concerning claim 6, it is known in the art to provide a sleeve for padded clamping surfaces to minimize slippage of the vessel. See cited US Patent to Fogarty.

Concerning claim 4, it is well known to provide surgical clamps with padded surfaces so as to minimize trauma to the tissue member. Likewise, it would have been obvious to provide Yoon and Hopkins combination with a padded mid portion.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoon (USP 5,620,452) in view of Noiles (US Patent 4,275,813). Concerning claims 8 and 9, a fastener having a "bridge" with a bend at the mid section is well known in the art. It would have been within the purview of one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Yoon's device with this type fastener so the clamp pressure can be adjusted.

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Claims 1, 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chevalier (French Patent 2,598,905) in view Yoon (USP 5,620,452). Chevalier substantially disclose the invention as recited, however, it only one u-shape pin. It would have been obvious utilize at least two u-shape pins to secure the cushions 3.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 308-4302. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 am to 6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, McDermott or Shaver can be reached on (703) 308-0858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gary Jackson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3731



gj
October 1, 2004